

Neighborhood Tenant/Homeowner Alliance



With a little cooperation, coordination, and organization, we can create a safer, more stable, more affordable, sustainable, and nicer place to live for everyone in our neighborhood.

Call us:

Email us:

Who we are and what we want:

We are a small group of neighbors, both homeowners and renters, who love our neighborhood and want to make sure it stays affordable so it can remain a great place to live. Our goal is a safe, stable, vital neighborhood that allows for a mix of races, incomes, cultures, and histories to flourish together and complement each other.

Why?

Our neighborhood is constantly undergoing changes that affect us all as residents. Many neighborhoods like ours undergo a series of these changes in the same order.

The series begins with a period of decline and ***neglect*** as the area ages and people move to newer housing, often new suburbs, where land is cheaper and maintenance costs are less. This ***flight*** results in declining property values, vacant buildings, un-maintained properties, absentee landlords, and an overall decline in the quality of life for those who can't afford to leave. This ***neglect*** phase of a neighborhood also means cheaper rents, since less people want to live there. Eventually, those cheap rents begin to draw in mostly young, scrappy artists and bohemians to the neighborhood. Those folks make the neighborhood seem more inviting to slightly better off others, such as young professionals and small business owners. This is the beginning of the neighborhood's ***revitalization*** phase. As small businesses open and people with more money start to buy and fix up houses, even more people are attracted to the area.

This is great news for the neighborhood, but only if the neighborhood can stay intact. Often, when landlords see that the area is becoming "hip" they start charging higher rents, displacing all the poorer residents who had lived there since the period of neglect. But those people are the very people who know the history of the neighborhood best, have the deepest roots there, and have been waiting to see the neighborhood turn around for years or even decades. Just when that begins to happen, they often end up having to move because rents begin to increase and never get to see the neighborhood revitalized. Eventually, even those scrappy artists and

small businesses who both rely on cheap rents end up having to move and close down as high-end retailers and renters are willing to pay a premium to live in the newly revitalized neighborhood.

We want to keep our neighborhood together, we want to make sure everyone who lives here can stay, and we want to make sure that we are not the next ones to be priced out the area.

How?

So how do we create a sustainable, stable neighborhood that doesn't displace its longest-term residents? If we can unite as a Neighborhood Alliance to stop rents from increasing to unaffordable levels, we will all benefit. We can ensure this happens by talking to all the landlords in the neighborhood and getting them on board with our vision.

For those absentee landlords who don't care about our neighborhood and the people who live here, who just want to make as much money as possible at the cost of our neighborhood's safety and stability, we can unite with their tenants when their rents get raised to unaffordable levels. We can help those tenants, and ourselves, by protesting these increases, backing up our neighbor if they refuse to pay the increased price, and protesting or stopping the landlord if they attempt to evict the tenant for not paying the increased rent.

Renters: This alliance will benefit renters by working to keep rent prices affordable, and keep renters from being displaced from our neighborhood. Renters just need to be willing to sacrifice a little of their time to create the coordination and cooperation on everyone's part that will protect all of us together. This is our neighborhood and we should be able to enjoy the benefits, too, as it becomes an increasingly nicer place to live.

Homeowners: Numerous studies have shown that as neighborhoods undergo the transition from neglect to revitalization, crime goes up proportionate to the increase in the costs of living. This is a solvable problem, with a little coordination and cooperation on everyone's part. All it requires is that homeowners be willing to sacrifice our potentially somewhat higher future property values or higher rental

incomes for greater safety and stability. Together we can preserve the great and unique features that are the reason we bought a home in the neighborhood.

Get involved:

1) Add your phone number to our phone tree so we can call you if a neighbor has a problem with their landlord raising their rent to an unaffordable level. We will call to ask for your help to write letters to the landlord and local politicians, attend a protest, or participate in other actions to keep our neighborhood a stable and affordable place to live. **Signing up for our phone tree is the most important step you can take!**

1) We are all busy, and so we won't have many meetings. We hope to be able to operate mainly as a phone tree that can mobilize the neighborhood when specific cases occur, but if you'd like to attend our meetings when we have them, please let us know and we'll keep you informed.

3) Talk to your neighbors about this flyer, read it to those who can't read well, and encourage everyone to sign up for our phone tree.

4) Please, **call us if you are having problems with paying increased rent, or for any other neighborhood problem you need help with!**

We are not just neighbors, we are also organizers, and we love to help. We know about how others have been successful in the past and how we can be, too. We are concerned with our neighborhood and want to make it an even better place to live, with your help!

We'd love to talk with you, answer questions, collaborate with you, and meet more of our neighbors. So please, contact us today: